Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" If that is the case, may I know how the public is to know what sort of enquiry the Settlement officer is making, in what place and so on ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" He is expected to give the public due notice."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Is it not a fact that simply a notice is given with no particulars as to where and when the settlement work is going on ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member will bring to the notice of the Settlement officer that due notice has not been given, I am sure he will see that the desired notice is given."

Action taken on objections to proposals not relating to rates in the scheme report for the resettlement of Kistna and Godavari districts.

*929-A Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what objections, if any, Government have received in respect of the proposals not relating to rates contained in the scheme report for the re-settlement of the Kistna and West and East Godavari districts;

(*b*) whether the said objections have been dealt with by (i) the Special Settlement officer, (ii) Board of Revenue and (iii) Local Government; and, if so, what opinion they have respectively expressed thereon; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to give an opportunity to the Legislative Council to express its opinion thereon before finally disposing of the said objections ?

A.—(*a*) Objections have been received in respect of the following proposals :—

(i) that the lands north of the Ellore and Samalkota canals in the West and East Godavari districts now classified as upland dry, but regularly irrigated from the delta system, should be reclassified in accordance with the principles adopted in the delta for similar land;

(ii) that the unsurveyed and unsettled lands within the margin of the Colair lake and waste blocks likely to be taken on patta should be classified and assessed suitably;

(iii) that the classification of the irrigation sources in the Kaikalur taluk of the Kistna district should be overhauled and that the sources whose ayacuts are liable to regular failure of supply and submersion owing to defects of irrigation and drainage should be reduced from the second and third class to the third and fourth class;

(iv) that lands under the Divi Pumping system should be reclassified on the basis of the rates for dry lands in the Kistna delta;

(v) that lands on which objectionable achukattu cultivation is carried on should be liable to pay enhanced assessment as in other districts.

Representation has also been made that the lanka and padugai lands should be reclassified.

(b) The remarks of the Special Settlement officer and the Board of Revenue have been received and they are under the consideration of the Government.

(c) The Settlement officer's report was published in the District Gazettes as long ago as December 1927 in order that persons interested, including members of this House, might make their representations on his proposals. It has been and still is open to any member to table a resolution on any point he desires. The Government do not however consider that they would be justified in making special arrangements to take up the time of the House on these comparatively minor matters.

Increase in the staff of the Settlement office in West Godavari district.

*929-B Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to resettlement work in West Godavari district, whether it is a fact that the staff in the Settlement office is limited in number;

(b) what is the time which the present staff will take to check the work turned out by the karnams; and

(c) whether Government have considered the advisability of increasing the staff in the Settlement office in proportion to the number of villages in the taluk, or in the alternative, to summon the karnams one after another so as to avoid their unnecessary stay at headquarters?

A.—(a) & (c) The hon. Member's suggestions will be communicated to the Settlement officer.

(b) The Government have not the information.

Chain survey and field measurement work in the delta villages in Ellore taluk.

*929-C Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that chain survey and field measurement work have been commenced in the delta villages, Ellore taluk, on or about 1st November 1928;

(b) whether Government are aware that the paddy crop on the fields is nearly ripe for harvesting and that on account of the recent cyclonic weather it is lying flat on the ground rendering even the field bunds unpassable;

(c) whether Government are aware that chain survey work in the paddy fields in the present condition would do immense damage to the crop; and

(d) what steps, if any, Government have taken to postpone the said field measurement work till after the harvesting is over?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) A representation to this effect has been received from the ryots of Ellore taluk, West Godavari district.

(c) No. Damage need not necessarily be caused to the crop unless chains are carelessly dragged through it.

(d) The Director of Survey has issued instructions to reduce the staff as far as practicable till the harvest is over and to see that precautions are taken not to damage the crop when measurements across the field are inevitable.